

Response

Amendment of the Abstract

The Examiner has objected to Applicants' use of the term "novel" in the Abstract. Accordingly the Abstract has been amended as shown and the term removed. The objection is, therefore, moot.

Response Regarding Rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and had made a number of helpful suggestions to place the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's efforts and have corrected the claims as proposed. No new matter has been added. The rejections are, therefore, moot.

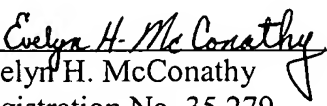
Response Regarding Judicially Created Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

The Examiner has made a judicially-created, nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 14-19 as unpatentable over claims 1-5, 7 and 8 of commonly owned US Patent No. 6, 767,564. Such a rejection is resolved by the terminal disclaimer that accompanies the Response. As a result, the Double Patenting rejection is moot, and Applicants' respectfully ask that it be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that allowance be granted at the earliest date possible. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding Applicants' amendments or response, she is asked to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (215) 772-7550.

Respectfully submitted,

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